

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 /082 W

-----076170 110305Z /73/14

R 080220Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4243

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 7234

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 2 GARBLED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ICAO, AS

SUBJECT: POLITICIZATION OF ICAO

REF: A) STATE 167737; B) CANBERRA 05218

1. FURTHER TO EMBASSY'S DEMARCHE, MADE AS INSTRUCTED DEPTTEL IN REFERENCE, C.C. HALTON, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT HAS REPLIED TO EMBASSY'S TALKING POINTS, INFORMING EMBASSY THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD DELAYED IN REPLYING UNTIL ITS OFFICERS HAD HAD THE BENEFIT OF DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL MEMBER WHO HAS JUST RETURNED TO CANBERRA FOR LEAVE AND BRIEFING. THE SUBSTANCE OF HALTON'S LETTER TO THE EMBASSY IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE AUSTRALIA DISAGREES WITH THE PRINCIPLE UNDERLYING THE PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION OF DIRECTORS ADOPTED BY COUNCIL IN JUNE LAST. AS YOU WOULD KNOW, THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL MEMBER, WHEN ABSTAINING ON THE VOTE, MADE CLEAR THAT WE WERE DOUBTFUL, ALSO, OF THE LEGAL VALIDITY OF THE POSITION. WHILE HOPEFUL THAT EXPERIENCE WILL DEMONSTRATE THE INADVISABILITY OF THE PROCEDURE ADOPTED WE AGREE THAT
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WE WOULD WANT THIS REVISED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL JUDGEMENT ON BOTH THE CHARACTER AND TIMING OF THE INITIATIVE TO HAVE THE POSITION CHANGED. THE COUNCIL MEMBER FEELS THAT TOO EARLY A REACTION MAY NOT BE PRODUCTIVE.

4. FROM THE ABOVE YOU CAN TAKE IT THAT AUSTRALIA WILL
SUPPORT ANY UNITED STATES INITIATIVE IN THIS REGARD IF
IT APPEARS TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FROM OTHER COUNCIL
MEMBERS. UNQUOTE
ALSTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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